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Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond

Report of the Secretary-General**

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 54/120 of 17 December 1999 on policies and programmes involving youth, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the resolution, in particular, on progress made in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (resolution 50/81, annex).

2. The present report is based on replies received from Member States, entities of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, as well as on statements by Member States to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session. The report is also based on other information on youth policies and programmes collected by the Youth Unit, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, during 1999-2001.

II. Priority youth issues for the twenty-first century: globalization and empowerment of youth

3. The General Assembly first defined youth in 1985 for the International Youth Year as those persons between 15 and 24 years of age, without prejudice to other definitions of Member States (A/40/256, para. 19). Since 1985, all the statistical services of the United Nations system have used the age cohort 15-24 to collect global statistics on youth. When the Assembly, by its resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, it reiterated that the United Nations defined youth as the age cohort 15-24. However, it was also recognized that, apart from that statistical definition, the meaning of the term "youth" varied in different societies around the world and that definitions of youth had changed continuously in response to fluctuating political, economic and socio-cultural circumstances.

4. From 1995 to 2000, the world's estimated youth population grew from some 1,026 million to 1,066 million, reflecting a decrease in the share of the global population from 18.1 per cent to 17.6 per cent. As the world's populations are ageing, the medium-variant projection for the share of youth in the global total is expected to decrease further, to 13.2 per cent in the year 2050, when it is estimated that there will be a total of 1,176 billion youth between 15 and 24 years.[1]

5. It is important to note that a large majority of youth live in developing countries. For 2000, it was estimated that 85 per cent of the total of 900 million youth lived in developing parts of the world. That share is expected to increase further as more developed countries show a larger growth of ageing populations.

6. It should be recalled that, since the International Youth Year in 1985, the General Assembly has defined youth participation as including four components: economic participation, relating to work and development; political participation, relating to decision-making processes and distribution of power; social participation, relating to community involvement and the peer group; and cultural participation, relating to the arts, music, cultural values and expression (see A/40/256). In global terms, the Convention of the Rights of the Child (resolution 44/25, annex) has laid down some principles in relation to young people's participation. Article 12 recognizes the rights of children and young people to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child. Article 13 recognizes the right to freedom of expression, article 14, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and article 15, freedom of association and peaceful assembly.

7. Participation is also a development strategy and can be seen as a process through which stakeholders influence and share control over development initiatives and resources. Participation involves transparency, openness and a voice in public decisions. Democracy requires that citizens be vigilant in expressing their right to participate and to have their views respected by political authority. Young people and their organizations have often appeared as leaders in demanding that right; in fact, youth and students have often played crucial roles in bringing about political change and progress towards more democratic structures of governance.

8. The development process in which policy formulation, implementation and evaluation take place often does not include young people as part of the decision-making mechanisms. In many cases, decisions about development activities are imposed on young people, even when they can contribute and benefit more from the development process if allowed to

influence the process meaningfully. Youth participation thus enables young people to make decisions with adults on a regular basis, in their schools, community or local government. It develops their capacity to become engaged citizens in society; it shifts public action from implementing activities for youth to providing youth with support to bring about change on their own.

9. The concept of empowerment includes participation, rights and responsibilities, capacity-building and social integration. To empower youth suggests conferring power to young people as individuals or as members of youth organizations, communities and national and international bodies so that they have the opportunity to make decisions that affect their life and well-being instead of having decisions made for them that may go against their actual wishes and interests. Empowerment thus involves young people as active agents for change and development, instead of youth as passive targets of externally initiated programmes. An underlying assumption behind the empowerment concept is that youth actors lack the power or have insufficient capacity to exercise their right to choose and act. Hence their autonomy should be respected, restored or enhanced. To that end, it is important to build up their capacity and to remove obstacles that stand in the way of the assumption of independence. In that context, capacity-building complements empowerment.

10. At the community and national levels, youth organizations, especially in developing countries, do not always have adequate capacity to empower themselves. In cases where youth organizations might possess the required capacity, many of them need to use that capacity to empower themselves to remove barriers to articulating and acting themselves on their concerns and on issues that affect youth. Youth empowerment in relation to globalization can thus be defined as a greater awareness of both the constraints to economic, political, social and cultural participation and an increased capacity to make the most of available opportunities to overcome those constraints.

11. The economic situation of developing countries contributes to the precarious situation of many young people. In both developing and developed countries, millions of young people's needs and aspirations are still unmet. The state of a country's economy is tied directly to the ability of that country to address the needs of large segments of the unemployed. The economic situation in many countries is often not favourable to youth participation and development. Young people are not always able to perform their roles as agents and beneficiaries of development and the creation of wealth.

12. At present, the quest for economic globalization, while it holds tremendous promise for all countries, is creating more difficulties for poor and developing nations. Furthermore, external debt of many countries prevents those countries from meeting the needs of their people, of whom youth make up a considerable segment. Full participation of youth in economic development thus becomes more problematic.

13. Macroeconomic instability has deep implications for youth development. Also, regional economic integration processes present major challenges for youth participation in the economic development of their countries. The future of youth in those regional processes must be critically assessed in order to avoid ad hoc approaches to the integration of young people.

14. In the new millennium, poverty continues to be a major issue for young people. Poverty robs them of their right to opportunities for a decent standard of living. In both developed and developing countries, as a result of poverty, many young people are living on the margins of their society, with little hope of overcoming their difficult circumstances. In rural and urban areas, poverty strikes at the young, causing many young people to move from their homes to urban areas, where many, constantly live without any chance of reaching a decent standard of living. Furthermore, in many instances their situation of poverty leads to drastic problems such as hunger, homelessness, disease, crime, violence and alienation. In the midst of poverty, young people are expected to contribute to their societies. However, poverty itself prevents them from doing so.

15. With respect to health, young adults are particularly vulnerable to infection with human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS): approximately half of the new HIV infections are in youth aged 15 to 24. An estimated 5.3 million people were newly infected with HIV/AIDS in 2000; no fewer than 6,500 young people acquired the virus on a daily basis.

16. In view of the consequent need for urgent action, Member States meeting at the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS in June 2001 agreed

that by 2005 at least 90 per cent, and by 2010 at least 95 per cent of young women and men should have access to the information, education, peer education and youth-specific HIV education and services necessary to develop the needed life skills to reduce their vulnerability. That process involves full partnership with youth, parents, families, educators and health-care providers.

17. It was also agreed that, by 2003, national targets should be set in order to reach the international global prevention goal to reduce HIV infections in young women and men in the severely affected countries by 25 per cent by 2005 and globally by 25 per cent by 2010. To achieve those targets, the active participation of young men and women is crucial.

18. HIV/AIDS is not the only health issue confronting young people. Millions of young people are not able to receive adequate and quality health care because of the absence of a proper and modern health infrastructure. In other countries, young people often have little or no access to health services. Also, young people are prevented from benefiting from good-quality health services because of the costs location, and limited youth-friendliness of the services. Recommendations made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in 1998 therefore included promoting equal health development for young women and young men and preventing and responding to health problems by creating safe and supportive environments, providing information and building skills and access to health services, including counselling, involving the family unit, peer groups, schools, media health services and other partners; and developing programmes of information, education, communication and campaign awareness among young women and young men to fight HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

19. Educational opportunities for young people remain a serious problem. Illiteracy in youth persists although many countries have been paying more attention to it. The highest rates of illiteracy in youth continue to be found in Africa and South Asia, where 1999 illiteracy rates were 18 and 23 per cent for men and 27 and 41 per cent for women between 15 and 24, respectively.[2] Although those rates reflect improvements of about 10 percentage points since 1990, achieving youth literacy, numeracy and ability to participate meaningfully and gainfully in society remains a challenge. Gender imbalances have persisted.

20. Issues of access to secondary and higher education have continued to be influenced by high costs and increased rationalization of the formal education system by Governments. In addition, many educational systems have not responded adequately to the problems faced by youth and youth participation in vocational training systems has often been inadequate. Many young people are still not prepared to enter the labour market as competent and qualified workers, leading to a continued demand for education policies that are relevant to and have a positive impact on the lives of young people.

21. Beyond compulsory education, the system in many countries is still geared towards an outmoded view of society based on manufacturing and a protected national economy. The growth in the services sector and the exposure of national economies to global competition require major changes not only in curriculum content but also in the settings in which learning takes place and the outcome standards required. Education providers need to prove that they are pursuing internationally recognized standards of literacy, numeracy and other life skills such as teamwork, computer skills and problem-solving so that their students can compete in a global labour market. The Dakar Framework for Action approved by the World Education Forum in April 2000 committed Governments to ensuring that the learning needs of all young people and adults were met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life skills programme. Directing resources to expanding educational opportunities is a key element of the poverty reduction strategies being developed through participatory processes in relation to the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the poverty reduction strategy papers or plans (PRSP) for each country. About 40 per cent of debt relief is being allocated for education in the 18 sub-Saharan African countries that benefit from the HIPC Initiative.

22. Youth unemployment is one of the most critical issues confronting young people throughout the world. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), over 70 million young people are unemployed worldwide. That number is expected to continue growing for the next 50 years, underlying the urgency of a forward-looking strategy to create youth employment.

23. Employment is one of the factors that plays a major role in maintaining social order and avoiding the

wastage of vital human resources. In both developed and developing countries, youth unemployment is a major concern, since for many young people, finding a job makes the difference between life and death.

24. It is difficult for many countries to meet the employment needs of millions of unemployed youth when they are struggling with external debt, deficits, lack of access to external markets, low commodity prices and economic liberalization. At the same time, unemployment creates psychological stress for many young people. Frustration and guilt feelings are some of the effects of unemployment on young people, while many are becoming impatient with the slow pace of their integration into the economic life of their countries. A large group of unemployed youth turn to an informal sector usually characterized by low pay, long working hours, dangerous working conditions and absence of union representation. The difficult situation of youth unemployment exposes young people to the risk of social problems stemming from drug abuse and illegal activities.

25. The Secretary-General's Policy Network on Youth Employment is exchanging information and drawing lessons learned from youth employment initiatives undertaken by a broad range of partners. A process is now also under way to formulate policy recommendations for presentation to the General Assembly. The objectives of the Policy Network are to formulate a set of recommendations on youth employment, which the Secretary-General will propose to world leaders for action in one year's time; to disseminate information on good practices and lessons learned from specific past or ongoing youth employment policies and programmes; and to identify, for implementation with its partners, a series of collaborative youth employment initiatives. The Network is made up of a joint secretariat, technical-level member organizations and a high-level panel. The joint secretariat involves the United Nations, the World Bank and ILO, which are organizing a participatory and focused process of consultations with Network members at the technical level.

26. Globalization also highlights the importance of entrepreneurship as a skill set, partly innate and partly acquired, which young people need. At the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels in May 2001, the parallel World Summit of Young Entrepreneurs brought together young entrepreneurs from a number of least developed countries, who were able to establish contacts and reinforce partnerships with each other, with United Nations entities, Governments and the private sector.

III. Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond

A. National level

1. National youth policies

27. A national youth policy facilitates a comprehensive and integrated approach to youth issues. It is an important way of addressing the concerns of young people from a multidisciplinary perspective that allows for integrated and cross-sectoral policy interventions.

28. Reviews have been presented in earlier reports of the Secretary-General in 1994, 1997 and 1999 (A/49/434, A/52/60-E/1997/6 and A/54/59, respectively) on what progress has been made by Member States in the formulation and implementation of national youth policies; the designation of a national youth coordinating mechanism; and the implementation of national youth programmes of action; or a combination of those three actions. Those data are summarized in the table below and specified by country in the annex to the present report. As far as data are available, progress appears to have stagnated since 1999 in all three areas. This may be due to the fact that of the four new Member States (Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu), data are available for only two. The methodology used does not allow for a qualitative assessment of existing national youth policies, nor does it assess the effectiveness of any coordinating mechanism or plan of action. The table below should therefore be seen in relative, quantitative terms; the numbers indicate only that some type of policy, mechanism or plan has been reported to the Secretariat.

Table
Summary of actions taken by Governments to implement the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond

Category	*Number*	*Percentage*
Countries that have formulated a national youth policy (cross-sectoral)	155	82
Countries that have designated a national youth coordinating mechanism (such as a ministry, department, council or committee)	168	89
Countries that have implemented a national youth programme of action (operational, voluntary service)	116	61
Countries that have taken any type of action to implement the World Programme of Action	97	51

2. Selected country experiences

Africa

29. In Botswana, the Department of Culture and Youth of the Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs, together with other youth-serving ministries, coordinates the national youth policy, drawn up by the Government of Botswana and adopted by parliament in August 1996. The policy is a guideline to all stakeholders dealing with youth issues, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the public. During the formulation of the national youth policy, a multi-sectoral National Youth Policy Reference Group comprising most of the stakeholders was established to advise the consultant. The National Action Plan for Youth (2001-2010), scheduled to be presented to parliament by mid-2001, will be a blueprint for planned multi-sectoral programmes and activities addressing youth needs and problems. The priority areas in the plan are education and training; health; socio-economic empowerment; and employment and poverty. In terms of facilities, current provisions are made to construct nine multi-purpose youth centres in selected locations, mainly in the urban and peri-urban areas. The centres will provide a diversity of services to youth, including counselling, reproductive health services, skills and crafts training, and recreation and talent development.

30. In Nigeria, the Federal Ministry of Education and Youth Development coordinates the national youth policy of the country in cooperation with other youth-serving ministries and youth organizations, especially in partnership with the National Youth Council of Nigeria, the principal non-governmental youth coordinating body. Youth policies and programmes are administered in all 19 states and federal capital territories of the country. To implement youth programmes of action, a National Youth Service Corps has been in place since 1973 to enable young university graduates to serve the country for one year after graduation as a contribution to the socio-economic development of the country. The National Youth Service Corps promotes youth participation in the implementation of the national youth policy through local and provincial youth projects. Outstanding members of the corps who distinguish themselves in their service are awarded at the national level. Two national financial institutions have been established, the People's Bank and the Community Bank, to increase local credit-building capacities and the capital base for youth and for rural dwellers for self-employment enterprises. Many youth have benefited from loans obtained through those local initiatives. The Government has also established the National Directorate of Employment, which promotes youth employment by helping young people, for example, by assisting unskilled youth to acquire skills that are relevant in the productive sector of the economy. Nigeria also contributes to youth empowerment through the Technical Aid Corps Programme, an international programme established to help the developing countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean to meet their human resource requirements in various fields, by sending Nigerian young experts for service in those countries for an initial period of two years. The Government is responsible for their transportation to and from those countries and pays their allowances for the two years.

Asia and the Pacific

31. In Australia, the Commonwealth Government has appointed a Cabinet Minister with responsibility for youth affairs and created a Youth Bureau within the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs to initiate and coordinate activities in that field. The Bureau coordinates the national youth policy of Australia in cooperation with other youth-serving ministries and departments and youth organizations, especially the Youth Affairs Council of Australia, the major non-governmental youth coordinating body. All branches of the Government contribute to shaping the national youth policy: executive (Prime Minister and Cabinet), legislative, bicameral parliament (composed of a Senate and a House), and judicial (independent judiciary court system). The responsibility of youth affairs in Australia is shared between federal and state governments, but increasing reliance is placed on the non-governmental or community sector for programme operation. For the Government, communicating with young people and enhancing their image are important priorities and accordingly a programme called "Voices of Youth Initiative" is in place and is believed to increase young people's capacity to communicate with the Government. The initiative includes the formation of a Youth Roundtable, which meets biannually. The programme brings together 50 young Australians aged 15-24 to discuss issues of importance to them and to meet with members of the Government. The young people are drawn from a wide range of backgrounds and the meetings give the Government an opportunity to listen closely to the views and wishes of the country's young people.

32. The Government of India has set up a Committee on National Youth Programmes (CONYP) to guide the national youth policy, chaired by the Prime Minister. The members of CONYP are ministers in charge of various youth-related departments, provincial ministers, members of parliament, representatives of political parties, non-governmental youth organizations and young people of various socio-economic backgrounds. The Committee advises the Government on measures for implementing the Plan of Action of the National Youth Policy, reviews coordination between various departments of the central and state governments and voluntary organizations and other agencies involved therein and provides feedback on the implementation of the nation's youth programmes. A separate Department of Youth Affairs and Sports was set up in 1985 and efforts began to formulate a national youth policy, which was adopted in 1988. Various schemes were then introduced to cater to the needs of youth. In view of the changing socio-economic scenario, it has now been decided to reformulate the national youth policy in order to make it more need-based and in tune with current requirements. After widespread deliberations with all the stakeholders, the new national youth policy is being finalized, with the underlying theme of youth empowerment, with emphasis on gender justice, a multi-sectoral approach and information and research networks. As most people live in villages, particular emphasis is placed on the needs of rural youth. As part of the empowerment exercise, the minimum voting age was reduced from 21 to 18 in 1989 and a legislative measure was taken in 1992 providing for reservation of one third of the seats for women in the village administrative units, or panchayats, which have enabled young people and young women to influence the decision-making process in the country.

Europe and North America

33. In Austria, the Ministry of Social Security and Generations coordinates the national youth policy of the country in cooperation with youth departments of provincial governments and several national youth-serving ministries of the Federal Government. Two new bills regarding youth policy came into force on 1 January 2001. The Federal Bill for the Promotion of Out-of-School Youth Education and Youth Work ("Federal Youth Promotion Bill") regulates the financial support of measures being taken in the field of out-of-school education and youth work, while the Federal Bill for the Representation of the Interests of Young Persons is intended to secure the representation of interests of young persons vis-à-vis political decision makers.

34. In the Russian Federation, governmental institutions for youth issues at the federal and regional levels have been in place since 1992. At present there are about 100 federal and more than 1,000 regional non-governmental organizations active in the field of youth issues. The Department on Youth Policy, under the Ministry of Education, coordinates youth programmes. The Ministry of Education works in close cooperation with Parliament in implementing the national youth policy. The Department on Youth Policy

prepares and presents to the Government an annual national report on the situation of youth. The Government adopted a decree on the country's preparations for the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year, which provided for an Interdepartmental Commission and a plan of action aimed at drawing the attention of leaders at all levels to youth problems and the need for their solution. In 1994, the Government of the Russian Federation prepared and adopted a federal programme entitled "Youth of Russia" for the period 1995-2000. The programme was launched by Presidential Decree and has the statute of a Presidential Programme. In 2000, the Interdepartmental Commission was given the status of Governmental Commission and is now headed by the Deputy Prime Minister and "Youth of Russia" was updated and extended for the period 2001-2005. Within the framework of the programme, specific legislation has been adopted, law enforcement undertaken and resources allocated for youth development. "Youth of Russia" is concerned with the spiritual, moral, material and patriotic life of youth. The subprogramme, "Youth Practice", has enabled over 15,000 graduates to find jobs. The subcommittee "Adolescent Temporary Employment" has enabled over 700,000 adolescents to find jobs. "Youth of Russia" has also promoted community work for youth and students.

Latin America and the Caribbean

35. In Costa Rica, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports coordinates the national youth policy of Costa Rica with other youth-serving ministries and youth organizations. All three branches of government contribute to that policy. Youth policies in Costa Rica are framed by a new approach to young people, which views them as individuals with rights and responsibilities. That approach is meant to overcome the protective approach of the past. The Youth Ministry, through its national youth movement, works to consolidate a global policy for young people. Policies are designed to ensure that youth are active participants. Education, employment, health, recreation, participation, voluntary work and communication are among priority areas. Health policies focus on adolescents and address gender equity and promote physical and mental health. Policies are also in place to promote sex education and to prevent drug and alcohol abuse. A national plan to promote solidarity between young people and to instil values has also been established. Costa Rica is organizing an international youth forum called the International Youth Festival.

36. In St. Lucia, the Ministry of Education, Human Resources Development, Youth and Sports is the governmental body coordinating youth policy. In preparing the national youth policy, the Department of Youth and Sport within the Ministry and the National Youth Council recently undertook extensive consultations with youth organizations, church organizations, service groups, uniformed groups and unaffiliated young people. The Government believes that youth should be at the centre of and play a role in development. The growing population of youth is expected to benefit through appropriate policy implementation mechanisms and adequate resource allocation. The national youth policy, which is in the process of being adopted by the Government, took the following key principles and issues into consideration in the formulation process: youth participation, responsiveness, gender sensitivity, benefits of the policy, access to services, integrated development and youth empowerment. The policy is expected to facilitate the establishment of a framework and structure that will provide youth with a voice, equal opportunities and autonomy, with a view to developing their full potential and ensuring their role and participation in all aspects of nation-building. To address the specific problems of youth in the country, the policy contains a set of recommendations on youth economic participation; youth education and training; crime prevention; curbing substance abuse; religious values and spiritual development; sports and recreation; youth and culture; teenage pregnancy; participation in clubs and organizations; and health concerns. The relevant government ministries and agencies and the private sector are expected to collaborate and to facilitate implementation of the policy. A policy review and monitoring mechanism is also in place and the Department of Youth and Sports and the National Youth Council are responsible for reviewing the national youth policy every five years through consultation with key stakeholders.

Western Asia

37. In Jordan, the Ministry of Youth and Culture was established in 1978 and acts as a coordinator on youth issues, working with different ministries and public agencies dealing with youth activities in the areas of education, manpower planning, industry and

employment and social development. Additionally, it is responsible for promoting sports and cultural activities for youth. The Ministry institutes policies and programmes to mobilize the energies of the country's youth and to qualify them to shoulder future responsibilities. Some of its programmes include increasing their awareness on human rights issues and conflict resolution through dialogue and teachings of non-violence, listening to youth and addressing their problems. To implement youth programmes of action, the Ministry has held summer youth programmes for participants from different countries, including Jordan. Sports and recreational facilities such as youth centres have also been set up across the country. The idea is that use of such facilities can play an essential role in educating and developing young people both physically and mentally. It is also believed that youth can spend their free time wisely and can be kept away from drug use and other harmful practices. The Vocational Training Corporation devotes considerable attention to training for new entrants into the labour market, as well as retraining programmes with a view to meeting changing market demands. It also addresses the question of legislation, in particular with respect to safety in the workplace, as well as setting of standards and maintaining quality control.

38. In the United Arab Emirates, the Supreme Council of Youth and Sports coordinates the national youth policy of the country in cooperation with other youth-serving ministries and youth organizations. It was founded in 1971 as the Ministry of Youth and was given its present status and name in 1981. It coordinates the work of 10 associations, the National Olympic Committee, 26 clubs and 6 youth organizations. The United Arab Emirates has accorded a high priority to formulating its national youth policy as well as its development policies, which take into account the question of youth through the promulgation of legislation and the provision of basic services such as the best possible educational curricula and health and social programmes, free of charge, in line with its national policies and regional and international policies. In the United Arab Emirates, the Ministry of Youth and Sports serves as the secretariat for the Arab Federation of Youth Organizations recently established by the League of Arab States to promote youth exchanges and services. As indicated above, youth legislation has recently been developed addressing the educational curricula and provision of health services and social facilities, such as parks, and public libraries free of charge.

B. Regional level

39. The first session of the African Youth Forum of the United Nations System was organized by the Youth Unit of the Secretariat and the Economic and Social Policy Division of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) from 10 to 14 April 2000 in Addis Ababa. The theme of the Forum was "Empowering African youth for action in the twenty-first century in partnership with the United Nations system". Approximately 80 representatives of youth and youth-related organizations from the five subregions of Africa attended the meeting, which brought together non-governmental youth organizations and entities of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and bilateral development agencies. It adopted an Africa Youth Declaration and an Africa Youth Programme of Action, which were to be presented to the fourth session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System in Dakar in August 2001.

40. The Arab Youth Forum of the United Nations System was held on 26 and 27 June 2001 in Beirut in preparation for the fourth session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System. The meeting created a forum for Arab youth non-governmental organizations in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) region to come together to network and consolidate an ESCWA regional position. The meeting brought together youth representatives from 13 Arab countries in the region and aimed at strengthening the capacities of Arab regional and national youth non-governmental organizations in the ESCWA region. The immediate objective of the forum was to obtain the perspectives and experiences of leading youth organizations in the region in the multi-sectoral formulation and implementation of national youth policies and projects. It was also intended to create a forum for discussion by Arab youth representatives and develop a joint statement (the Beirut Declaration) for presentation to the fourth session of the World Youth Forum in Dakar.

41. The Asia-Pacific Youth Forum of the United Nations System and the Third Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Resource Development for Youth were held in Bangkok from 30

May to 1 June and from 4 to 8 June 2001, respectively. The meetings promoted dialogue between youth representatives, Governments and the United Nations system on issues of concern to young people in the Asia and Pacific region and provided an opportunity to promote the mainstreaming of youth health issues, focusing on sexual and reproductive health, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention-into national policies and programmes. The immediate objective of the meetings was to obtain the views of young people in the Asia and Pacific region on health needs and to facilitate a dialogue between youth representatives, Governments and the United Nations system at the regional level as a basis for promoting youth participation in the formulation and implementation of integrated youth health policies and programmes.

42. The second session of the Latin American and Caribbean Youth Forum of the United Nations System was held in Panama City from 17 to 19 July 2000. The Forum brought together 80 representatives of the major regional youth and student organizations of the Latin America and the Caribbean region and adopted a Latin American and Caribbean Youth Declaration on regional youth policy and programme of action on regional youth projects to be undertaken by youth non-governmental organizations in partnership with United Nations agencies and organizations in the region.

43. The Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe undertook a number of activities during 1999 and 2000. The Committee of Ministers adopted a new structure for the youth field, under which the Youth Directorate was merged with the Division of Sport and put under a new Directorate-General. The Directorate of Youth and Sport launched its three-year priority youth programme on human rights and the Human Rights Education Forum was held at the European Youth Centre in Budapest. Activities included study sessions with emphasis on creating "multipliers" to become actors in their own organizations. In the area of intergovernmental cooperation, work was carried out to encourage youth participation of young girls and young women and active democratic citizenship. Youth policies of Spain and Sweden were reviewed in 1999 by two international teams of experts nominated by the Council of Europe. Coordination of the two studies was the responsibility of the Directorate of Youth and Sport. In continuing its work of reviewing national youth policies, activities undertaken under intergovernmental cooperation included, for example, hearings held for the evaluation of the youth policies in Estonia and Romania and a consultative meeting on the evaluation of youth policies in Luxembourg. Cooperation between the Directorate of Youth and Sports of the Council of Europe and the Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Union (EU) has now become fundamental in the framework of youth workers' training at the European level.

44. The European Commission has initiated a broad consultation process that will lead to the drafting of a white paper. The European Youth Forum reported a number of activities that had been undertaken in its constituencies and made a number of recommendations to be integrated into the white paper. In its report, the Forum highlighted the commitments that had been made by heads of State and Government and the EU institutions to improve the position of young people in Europe and to promote their ability to participate actively in European society. Those commitments were reflected in the resolutions on youth policy for Europe adopted by the European Parliament and the resolution of the Council of Ministers for Youth meeting within the Council. The consultation process concluded with the identification of a common set of priorities by all of the actors involved. Young people from all over Europe were awaiting the results of the consultations concerning the white paper and the implementation of a youth policy in EU. In view of the Commission's intention to issue the white paper on youth policy at the end of the year, the contribution by the European Youth Forum outlined a strategic approach to developing an integrated and cross-sectoral youth policy in EU. That policy was expected to improve the lives of young people and their opportunities to participate actively in society at both the national and the European level. The European Commission's support has also been provided through the Youth for Europe and European Voluntary Service programmes in 1998-1999 and from 2000 onwards through the "Youth" programme. During that period, the EU youth programmes had supported about 18,000 projects involving more than 260,000 young people and persons active in the field of youth work or youth policy. Youth exchanges and related support measures had involved as many as 80 per cent of the total number of participants, followed by youth initiatives and European youth voluntary service. Particular attention had been given to gender issues in EU youth programmes. EU did not restrict the support

of young people to those living within its borders. The Euro-Mediterranean Youth Action programme, an external relations programme that links EU with its neighbours in the north of Africa and around the Mediterranean Sea, provided support for youth organizations in all those countries. The programme was currently under review and a second phase would be launched in 2002.

45. The Inter-American Development Bank undertook an information technology initiative for youth in Latin America. The Democratization of Information Technology Americas (CDI Americas) is a partnership formed by a number of organizations creating a strategic partnership of public, private sectors and philanthropic organizations to empower millions of young people living in poverty. The initiative is intended to better the future of millions of underprivileged youth in Latin America and the Caribbean through training in information technology skills, counselling and job placement. CDI Americas is already active in Brazil and Uruguay and is initiating operations in Colombia and Mexico. Its immediate goal is to create at least 100 new information technology and citizenship schools in the four countries during 2001, to reach more than 30,000 young people per year. The initiative, which operates on donations to establish the schools at a relatively low cost, is building new strategic partnerships to extend the model to all of Latin America, where more than half of the 220 million young people under the age of 20 live in poverty. The CDI curriculum includes common computer programs and Internet training. In addition, students are taught civic education, which includes human rights advocacy, training in non-violence and health and environmental responsibility. Under the CDI Americas initiative, the Inter-American Development Bank is committed to establishing partnerships with international, national and local public and private organizations according to the specific needs of the countries.

46. Recognizing the special role young people should play in building a region of stable democracies, sustainable economies and societies based on equity, the Bank created the Youth Development and Outreach Programme in 1995 to respond more effectively to the needs of young people in the region and to promote their participation and leadership in the development process. The Bank initiative emphasizes youth participation and leadership, entrepreneurial development, technology and community service. The programme establishes alliances with the public and private sectors, non-governmental organizations and youth themselves in order to make a place for the voices and actions of young people in the development process.

47. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) has been promoting the cause and welfare of African youth in cooperation with the Pan African Youth Movement. OAU coordinated the African position in order to take a common stand during major world youth meetings. Similar initiatives were also taken by OAU by sending a high-level delegation during the African Youth Forum meeting held in Addis Ababa, preparatory to the fourth World Youth Forum of the United Nations system. During the twenty-fourth session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission, held in Côte d'Ivoire, recommendations were made to institute national youth councils and to enhance youth participation. In its effort to support youth development, OAU continues to work closely and collaborate with ECA, the Youth Unit of the Secretariat, the Pan African Youth Movement and youth organizations. OAU is currently working on the African Youth Charter and the second Pan African Conference on Youth; it will send a high-level representation to the World Youth Forum in Dakar.

C. Global level

48. Many Member States have included youth representatives in their official delegations to the General Assembly, thereby encouraging youth participation in the decision-making process. Eight countries sent youth delegates to the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, who brought the problems facing youth to the attention of Governments. Six of those youth representatives addressed the Third Committee on agenda item 103.

49. The importance of encouraging the active participation of young people in drug prevention activities was reiterated by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/115 of 9 December 1998. In 1999 and 2000, the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat submitted reports to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs addressing the issue of drug abuse in youth. Through its "Listening to Young People" initiative, the Office consulted a selected group of young people on their ideas and strategies to prevent drug abuse in their peers. The "For Youth, by

Youth" Global Forum on Drug Abuse Prevention, held in Banff, Alberta, Canada, brought together young people from 24 countries. The Global Youth Network is continuing the work started in Banff. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme sees the involvement of young people in the development of drug abuse prevention activities as crucial. The idea is to allow young people to influence decision-making processes with their unique ability to formulate novel approaches to tackling common problems and to build bridges connecting young people across the globe. Ongoing and proposed activities of the Global Youth Network include an email list that provides a forum for discussion on youth-related activities of the United Nations system; publication of the quarterly newsletter *Connekt*; preparation of a handbook for youth which serves as the basis for a series of regional training workshops; and creation of an interactive web site where members of the network will be able to interact with each other and exchange messages. In addition, a number of conventions and protocols and other work done to address drug-related problems were reported by the Office, including the finalization of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols supplementing it: the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and the Protocol against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms (resolutions 55/25, annexes I-III, and 55/255, annex, respectively).

50. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) organized a number of activities and held consultations with youth to enhance their capacity-building. The UNEP Global Youth Retreat gave participants an opportunity to review youth involvement in UNEP work and to advise UNEP on effective ways of improving its work with youth groups. The Programme helped young people increase their involvement in environmental issues. The UNEP Youth Advisory Council has the mandate to advise UNEP and its regional offices on ways of involving young people in its activities and to represent youth in international environmental meetings organized by UNEP. There is also an exchange programme in place for youth that provides opportunities to share ideas. The Regional Youth Forum held in different regions gives youth leaders an opportunity to discuss environmental problems and priorities, to develop subregional networks and to establish an action plan. The UNEP Global Youth Forum (Youth for Sustainable Development Process) helped to initiate a youth preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002, and a youth statement will be delivered at the Summit. Other activities include *Pachamama (Our World Our Future)*, a publication funded by the United Nations Foundation, that gave young people an opportunity to review the UNEP Global Environment Outlook (GEO) and provided an appraisal of the state of the environment from their perspective. The youth version of GEO was developed in a consultative process involving a large number of youth groups around the world in 1998 and 1999. Similar regional initiatives are also in place to create a regional youth version of the GEO. To encourage youth participation on environmental issues, UNEP has initiated a programme called the Global 500 Youth Awards that recognizes the outstanding environmental achievements of young people. Awards are given each year during the main World Environment Day celebrations.

51. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) revised its approach to youth issues by defining a new strategy aimed at the empowerment of young people. The strategy for UNESCO action with and for youth sets three major objectives: the presence of young men and women in UNESCO bodies as well as at events organized by the Organization or its partners, the incorporation of youth views and priorities and the collaboration with young people in projects and programmes, and the establishment of youth policies in UNESCO's areas of competence. The Organization's efforts to make its secretariat staff younger by the recruitment of young people, especially through the "Young Professionals Scheme" and the Associate Expert Scheme, resulted in 59 per cent of all staff recruited since 2000 being under 40 years of age. To activate youth participation and to mainstream youth issues within its programme, UNESCO organized a Youth Forum, published a youth-friendly publication and encouraged youth voluntary services. UNESCO organized a Youth Forum in connection with all major conferences, such as the World Conference on Higher Education and the World Conference on Science, and during the 30th session of the UNESCO General Conference. In undertaking its activities, the Organization sought close cooperation in the framework of the United Nations system, as illustrated by its involvement in the preparation of the

fourth World Youth Forum of the United Nations System as well as the earlier forums. With UNEP, the Organization worked on young consumers' environmental and social concerns, with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) on HIV/AIDS and human rights issues, with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on promoting the participation of adolescents and with the United Nations Volunteers on the promotion of youth volunteering in the framework of the International Year of Volunteers. UNESCO also collaborated with many other organizations in the four-year project entitled "The Global Meeting of Generations: Vision and Action for Equitable Development in the Twenty-first Century", supporting inter-generational dialogue through the Common Futures Forum, a group of young social entrepreneurs. UNESCO's membership in the Inter-American Working Group on Youth Development enhances its cooperation and consultation with intergovernmental organizations. UNESCO was instrumental in the organization of the following global conferences and meetings pertaining to education, culture and environment: the World Education Forum, held in Dakar in April 2000, and the Youth Forum of the World Conference on Higher Education, held in Paris in October 1998. In cooperation with the non-governmental organization Environment sans Frontières, in 1998 the Organization launched a Youth Charter for a Twenty-first Century Free of Drugs. In the area of culture, it has established a network of over 100 UNESCO associated schools in Africa, the Caribbean and Europe to develop innovative educational approaches while promoting intercultural dialogue between young people. In 1999, UNESCO and the Federal Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs of Austria organized an international conference on the theme "Education for the Media and Digital Age" in Vienna. UNESCO's INFOYOUTH is an ongoing project that serves as a clearinghouse for information and data on youth. In 2000, with UNEP and other partners, the Organization launched the research project "Youth and Consumption: Is the Future Yours?" to draw up recommendations on a communication policy and actions to be taken to raise young people's awareness of more environmentally and ethically sound consumption practices. In the Organization's 2002-2007 draft medium-term strategy, youth is clearly identified as a group that needs to be fully taken into account in all UNESCO programmes.

52. The special session of the General Assembly on children was expected to produce a global agenda with a set of goals and a plan of action devoted to ensuring three essential outcomes: the best start in life for all children, good-quality basic education for all children and opportunities for all children, especially adolescents (who fall into the age cohort of youth), for meaningful participation in their communities.

53. Youth participation in the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to be held in Durban, South Africa, in August 2001, organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, will be made possible through an NGO Forum and a Youth Summit. One of the issues of concern at the Conference will be that young people, in particular young indigenous people, suffer discrimination and are marginalized in the decision-making processes, which results in limiting their full and active political, economic, and cultural participation.

54. The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) continued to promote youth volunteering. The programme has become a vehicle for youth to acquire both technical and life skills. The year 2001 has been proclaimed the International Year of Volunteers and worldwide celebrations have been organized. A call was made to Governments to promote volunteering among young people within the education and youth services to develop specific programmes to encourage youth volunteering and to develop systems to recognize and accredit volunteering by working with the media and other stakeholders to present a more attractive, up-to-date image of volunteering. In response to a request from the Government of Azerbaijan and in partnership with UNDP, in April 2000 UNV launched a Youth Volunteer Scheme in Azerbaijan. The project initially involved about 120 youth and by December 2000 the project had mobilized over 200 youth volunteers. In Nicaragua, another UNV project was launched in 2000 to involve young students in a rural development project. With the financial support of the Government of Italy, UNV launched an internship scheme early in 2001, which is expected to provide recent university graduates with opportunities for a year's professional experience in different countries under programmes supported by entities of the United Nations system.

55. Although the World Food Programme (WFP) does not specifically target youth as a separate group within the hungry poor, statistics for 1999 and 2000

demonstrate the wide impact of WFP food assistance on the lives of young people as well as on those of children. WFP programmes that address the needs of youth are primarily in the areas of school meals and support to training and nutritional support to young women. With the provision to children of breakfast, mid-morning snacks, lunches and/or take-home rations, school enrolment, attendance and performance increase, while short-term hunger and dropout rates decrease. WFP targets the hungry poor in food deficit or food insecure areas, where meals or take-home rations are adequate incentive for poor parents to send their children to school and to keep them there. WFP targets girls in particular, as in most countries girls' enrolment and attendance is substantially lower than boys' and because there is greater benefit to society from girls' education.

IV. Youth participation at the United Nations

56. Civil society organizations, youth organizations included, are asking for greater participation in the decision-making processes of the United Nations. The current involvement of youth organizations in conferences and special sessions of the General Assembly taking place in 2001 has, however, been uneven. Whereas some conferences had facilitated youth-specific or youth-only caucuses or forums, other events were marked by the absence of participation by young people, either as a result of a lack of awareness among youth or because of a limited perceived benefit to youth from the respective organizing body within the United Nations system.

57. The picture of the representation of youth organizations at the United Nations shows a diverse palette of political, religious and service groups of youth and students. Whereas traditionally youth-service organizations had a long and established presence at United Nations meetings, those organizations have become increasingly less youth-driven and youth-led as compared with some newer organizations, set up in the 1960s and 1970s, of a more activist and political nature. The end of the cold war also resulted in considerable erosion of the number of such organizations and their membership in the early 1990s. Since then, a new grouping of regional clusters of national youth and student organizations has emerged in almost all parts of the world.

58. The youth organizations that are currently involved in the work of the United Nations thus present a mix of those organizations, all with specific ideological and/or developmental objectives. Their commonality appears to be their ability to have adjusted their objectives to the political climate and changing needs of youth.

59. Within the present grouping of youth organizations, there is a further distinction between regional organizations with a large resource base, in particular from developed countries, and more loosely organized entities in need of substantial institutional and financial strengthening, often regional youth and student bodies from developing countries. In North America, in the absence of a strong national youth platform, youth organizations that take an interest in the work of the United Nations are mostly issue-focused (on issues such as reproductive health, HIV/AIDS or drug abuse).

60. It could be argued that, despite the fact that many youth organizations have obtained the consultative status required for participation in United Nations meetings, very few actually make use of that right. As leaders of youth organizations normally serve their organizations for only short periods, not many are able to allocate sufficient time and resources to become sufficiently familiar with the United Nations system and its workings and thus miss many opportunities for participation in events at the United Nations.

61. The prime channel of communication between youth organizations and the United Nations system has been the World Youth Forum of the United Nations system. The fourth session of the Forum will be held in Dakar in August 2001. The mandate for the World Youth Forum can be found in paragraph 125 of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which states that effective channels of communication between non-governmental youth organizations and the United Nations system are essential for dialogue and consultation on the situation of youth and implications for its implementation. The Forum has contributed to the implementation of the Programme of Action through the identification and promotion of joint initiatives to further its objectives so that they better reflect the interests of youth.

62. A participatory approach had been taken in the preparations for the fourth session of the Forum. An International Preparatory Committee of youth

organizations and representatives of United Nations entities took the lead in all preparations for the event. The Committee also decided that the special theme for the fourth session would be "Empowering youth to take action". The outcome of the fourth session will be a document to include concrete recommendations, strategies and tools to empower young people to participate in decision-making and in evaluation of policies and programmes on key youth issues, in order to ensure action at the local, national, regional and international levels. The conclusions of the World Youth Forum will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly through a letter from the Government of Senegal to the Secretary-General.

Notes

[1] United Nations, *World Population Prospects, 1998 Revision*, vol. I, table A1.

[2] *World Development Indicators 2001*, Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2001, table 2.14.

Annex[a]

Status of implementation of national youth policies, coordination mechanisms and programmes of action, as at May 2001

Afghanistan[b c]
Albania[b c]
Algeria[b c d]
Andorra[b c d]
Angola[b c d]
Antigua and Barbuda[b c]
Argentina[b c d]
Armenia[c]
Australia[b c d]
Austria[b c d]
Azerbaijan[b c d]
Bahamas[b c d]
Bahrain[b c]
Bangladesh[b c d]
Barbados[b c d]
Belarus[b c]
Belgium[b c d]
Belize[b c]
Benin[b]
Bhutan[c]
Bolivia[b c d]
Bosnia and Herzegovina[e]
Botswana[b c d]
Brazil[c]
Brunei Darussalam[b c]
Bulgaria[b c]
Burkina Faso[b c d]
Burundi[b c]
Cambodia[e]
Cameroon[b c]
Canada[b c d]
Cape Verde[b c]
Central African Republic[b c d]
Chad[b c]
Chile[b c d]
China[b c d]
Colombia[b c]
Comoros[b c]
Congo[b c]
Costa Rica[b c d]
Côte d'Ivoire[b c]
Croatia[b c d]
Cuba[b c d]
Cyprus[b c d]
Czech Republic[b c d]
Democratic People's Republic of Korea[b c d]
Democratic Republic of the Congo[b c]
Denmark[b c d]
Djibouti[b c]
Dominican Republic[b d]
Ecuador[b c]
Egypt[b c d]
El Salvador[c]
Equatorial Guinea[e]
Eritrea[e]
Estonia[c d]
Ethiopia[b c]
Fiji[b c d]
Finland[b c d]
France[b c d]
Gabon[b c]
Gambia[b c]
Georgia[c]
Germany[b c d]
Ghana[b c d]
Greece[b c d]
Grenada[c]
Guatemala[b c d]
Guinea[b c d]
Guinea-Bissau[c]
Guyana[b c]
Haiti[b c]
Honduras[b c]
Hungary[b c d]
Iceland[b c d]
India[b c d]
Indonesia[b c d]
Iran (Islamic Republic of)[b c d]
Iraq[c d]
Ireland[b c d]
Israel[b c d]
Italy[b c d]
Jamaica[b c d]
Japan[b c d]
Jordan[b c d]
Kazakhstan[e]
Kenya[b c d]
Kiribati[c]
Kuwait[c d]
Kyrgyzstan[e]
Lao People's Democratic Republic[b c d]
Latvia[c]
Lebanon[b c d]
Lesotho[b c d]
Liberia[b c]
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya[c]
Liechtenstein[b c d]
Lithuania[b c]
Luxembourg[b c d]
Madagascar[b c]
Malawi[b c d]
Malaysia[b c d]
Maldives[b c]
Mali[b c d]
Malta[b c d]
Marshall Islands[b c d]
Mauritania[b c]
Mauritius[b c d]
Mexico[c]
Micronesia (Federated States of)[b c d]
Monaco[b c d]
Mongolia[b c d]
Morocco[b c d]
Mozambique[b c d]
Myanmar[d]
Namibia[b c d]
Nauru[e]
Nepal[b c]
Netherlands[b c d]
New Zealand[b c d]
Nicaragua[b c d]
Niger[b c d]
Nigeria[b c d]
Norway[b c d]
Oman[b c]
Pakistan[b c d]
Palau[e]
Panama[b c]

Papua New Guinea[b c d]
Paraguay[b c d]
Peru[b c d]
Philippines[b c d]
Poland[b c d]
Portugal[b c d]
Qatar[e]
Republic of Korea[b c d]
Republic of Moldova[b c]
Romania[b c d]
Russian Federation[b c d]
Rwanda[b c d]
Saint Kitts and Nevis[b c]
Saint Lucia[b c]
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines[b c d]
Samoa[b c d]
San Marino[c]
Sao Tome and Principe[c]
Saudi Arabia[b c]
Senegal[b c d]
Seychelles[b c d]
Sierra Leone[b c d]
Singapore[b c]
Slovakia[b c d]
Slovenia[b c d]
Solomon Islands[b c d]
Somalia[e]
South Africa[b c d]
Spain[b c d]
Sri Lanka[b c d]
Sudan[b c]
Suriname[b c d]
Swaziland[b c d]
Sweden[b c d]
Syrian Arab Republic[b c d]
Tajikistan[e]
Thailand[b c d]
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[b d]
Togo[b c]
Tonga[c]
Trinidad and Tobago[b c d]
Tunisia[b c d]
Turkey[b c d]
Turkmenistan[e]
Tuvalu[e]
Uganda[b c d]
Ukraine[b c d]
United Arab Emirates[b c d]
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland[b c d]
United Republic of Tanzania[b c d]
United States of America[c d]
Uruguay[b c]
Uzbekistan[e]
Vanuatu[b c]
Venezuela[b c d]
Viet Nam[b c d]
Yemen[b c]
Yugoslavia[b c]
Zambia[b c]
Zimbabwe[b c d]

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[a] The data in the present annex have been taken from statements made by government delegates at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, held in Lisbon from 8 to 12 August 1998, and updated where possible. Since the compilation of the previous survey (see A/54/59, annex), Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu became Member States of the United Nations, thus bringing the total to 189.

[b] Formulation of national youth policy (cross-sectoral).

[c] Designation of a national youth coordinating mechanism (ministry, department, council or committee).

[d] Implementation of a national youth programme of action (operational, voluntary service).

[e] No data received on national youth policies, coordination mechanisms or programmes of action.

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Item 132 (a) of the preliminary list*
Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

Report of the Secretary-General**

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* A/56/50.

** The present report is being submitted on 12 July 2001 so as to include as much updated information as possible.

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I. Introduction

A. Submission of the present report

1. The present annual report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, drafted 28 June 2001, was prepared in accordance with the arrangements approved by the Assembly in its resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981 by which it created the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (hereinafter referred to as "the Fund"). This report presents mainly the recommendations adopted by the Fund's Board of Trustees (hereinafter "the Board") at its twentieth session (Geneva, 18 May-1 June 2001), which were approved on 15 June by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (hereinafter "the High Commissioner").

B. Mandate of the Fund

2. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 36/151, adopted 16 December 1981, the Fund receives voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals which it distributes through established channels of assistance, as humanitarian, legal and financial aid to torture victims and their relatives. In accordance with the practice established by the Board of Trustees beginning in 1982, the Fund provides grants to non-governmental organizations which submit projects involving medical, psychological, social, economic, legal, humanitarian or other forms of assistance to the victims of torture and their relatives. If sufficient money is available, the Board also recommends that it fund projects under which health-care professionals or other professionals who provide assistance to torture victims receive training or hold seminars or conferences.

C. Board of Trustees of the Fund

3. The Secretary-General administers the Fund through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (hereinafter "the Office of the High Commissioner") with the advice of the Fund's Board of Trustees (see A/48/520, paras. 5-9 and annexes III-VI, on the terms of reference of the Board). The Chairman of the Board is Mr. Jaap Walkate and the other members are Mr. Ribot Hatano, Ms. Elizabeth Odio-Benito, Mr. Ivan Tosevski and Mr. Amos Wako.

D. Grant approval cycle

4. A brief description of the grant approval cycle will explain how the Fund operates. Grant requests should be submitted each year by 30 November for consideration by the Fund secretariat, which decides whether they are admissible under the Fund's guidelines. Admissible grant requests are reviewed by the Board at its annual session in May. The Board's recommendations are examined by the Fund secretariat to ensure that they are in compliance with United Nations rules, then submitted for approval on behalf of the Secretary-General to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In July all the applicants are informed in writing of the decisions affecting them. Grants are paid out by the United Nations Office at Geneva, usually in August. The recipients must submit by 31 December

satisfactory narrative and financial reports on the use of the grants. In the absence of a final report by 31 December, a request is made for an interim report on that date and the final report must be received by the following 15 February. No new grant requests can be considered as long as previous narrative and financial reports are still due.

E. Admissibility criteria

5. The project admissibility criteria are defined in the Fund's guidelines, which are sent to all applicants. They are revised each year by the Board and the Fund secretariat. The main criteria are those formulated by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/151 (see para. 2).

II. Twentieth session of the Board of Trustees of the Fund

A. Organization of the work of the Board

6. During its twentieth session, held from 18 May to 1 June 2001, for the first time at the Palais Wilson in Geneva, the headquarters of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Board held 20 private meetings.

7. During these meetings, the Board considered analyses prepared by its secretariat of more than 200 projects. These analyses dealt mainly with the use of the funds granted in previous years and with new grant applications received for projects to be funded in 2001. On the basis of these documents, the Board adopted recommendations concerning each project submitted to it.

8. As is customary, the members of the Board held a meeting on 1 June with Mary Robinson, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and informed her of the financial situation of the Fund and their preliminary recommendations.

9. In accordance with established practice, the Board held a meeting with the Chairman of the Committee against Torture (see also chap. E below) and also held private hearings of representatives of non-governmental organizations which had submitted a funding request.

B. Financial situation of the Fund

10. In accordance with the United Nations rules governing voluntary contribution funds for humanitarian purposes, 15 per cent of estimated annual expenditures must be earmarked as a reserve for the following year, in the event that the amount of contributions received is insufficient, and 13 per cent is the rate set for programme support costs. After reserve and support costs were deducted from the total contributions received in time for allocation, and after adding to the new voluntary contributions paid since the nineteenth session the 15 per cent left over from the previous year, the amount available on 18 May 2001 for allocation to new grants came to a little over US$ 8 million (an increase of US$ 1 million as compared with 2000; see table 2 below).

11. Table 1 below shows contributions received in time for allocation at the twentieth session of the Board. Only contributions received between 15 May 2000, the first day of the nineteenth session of the Board, and 17 May 2001, the day before the beginning of the twentieth session, have been taken into account, according to the information available to the Office of the High Commissioner.

12. It should be noted that most regular donors and other donors to the Fund responded well to the appeals from the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights, the High Commissioner and the Board and to the joint declaration of 26 June 2000, which urged them to make advance contributions, preferably by 1 March 2001, to be duly recorded by the Treasurer of the United Nations and available by the time of the Board's twentieth session.

Table 1
Contributions received in time for allocation at the twentieth session

Donors	*Amount (in United States dollars)*	*Year for which the contribution was paid*	*Contribution number*
Algeria	5 000	2001	10
Andorra*	2 650	1999	6
"	8 300	2000	7
Argentina	7 000	2000	12
"	3 000	2000	13
Austria	40 000	2000	17
Belgium	70 277	2000	11
Cameroon	7 444	2001	4
Canada	17 151	2000	17
"	40 775	2001	18
Chile	10 000	2000	8
Cyprus	770	2000	12
"	2 767	2001	13
"	2 400	2001	14
Czech Republic	5 000	2000	5
Denmark	358 920	2001	19
Finland	147 809	2001	19
France	70 186	2001	23
Germany	121 510	2000	19
Holy See	1 000	2000	5
Iceland	4 650	2001	15
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	867	2001	1
Ireland	89 070	2001	16
Italy	110 519	1999	11
"	110 519	2000	12
Japan	60 000	2000	15
Liechtenstein	5 952	2001	13

Donors	*Amount (in United States dollars)*	*Year for which the contribution was paid*	*Contribution number*
Luxembourg	10 995	2001	17
Malta	1 500	2000	6
Monaco	10 000	2001	7
Netherlands	900 000	2000/2001	19 and 20
New Zealand	11 808	2000	14
Norway	110 327	2001	16
Philippines*	613	1999	5
Poland	10 000	2001	2
Republic of Korea	10 000	2000	6
Spain	37 400	2000	15
Sri Lanka	1 000	2000	9
Sweden	113 345	2000	14
Switzerland	46 512	2001	14
Tunisia	2 000	1999	9
"	1 881	2000	10
Turkey	5 000	2000	2
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	234 048	2001	14
United States of America	5 000 000	2001	21
United Nations staff in Geneva	13 397	1998	1
Mr. Daniel Prémont	120	2000	2
Mrs. Rita Maran	50	2001	12
International Commission of Jurists, Dutch section	2 819	2001	6

* Partial contribution for 1999.

C. Recommendations of the Board concerning grants

13. In accordance with the Board's established practice, the entire amount available for new grants was recommended for allocation. The US$ 8 million available were mostly allocated to projects throughout the world which provide medical, psychological, economic, social or legal assistance or other forms of direct humanitarian aid to victims of torture and members of their families. A few grants were given to training programmes for health-care professionals and others to improve their knowledge of specialized assistance to victims of torture, and for meetings of such professionals for purposes of exchanging experience in this field. In all, new grants for 2001 were allocated to 187 projects of assistance to victims of torture and members of their families in 70 countries around the world.

14. Having analysed the requests for financing for direct assistance projects and training or seminar projects, the Board recommended that some US$ 35,000 should be reserved for emergency grants that the secretariat might make if needed, on the

recommendation of the Chairman, before the Board's next annual session. This sum is additional to a balance of some US$ 140,000 which had remained unused since May 2000 (cf. A/55/178, para. 14). This reserve could be used before the Board's next session in May 2002 to respond to requests for assistance, particularly from victims of torture, for emergency care in areas where there is no project financed by the Fund, and for any organizations already financed by the Fund which might be experiencing financial difficulties. Those requests for urgent assistance will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant guidelines of the Fund already approved by the Secretary-General and the General Assembly (see A/50/512, chap. IV and A/48/520, annex I). The Board recommended that requests for financing in amounts up to US$ 20,000 should be examined by the Chairman and those for higher sums should be examined by the Chairman and two other members of the Board, including the member from the region concerned.

D. Fund-raising

1. Meeting with donors

15. The annual meeting in Geneva of Board members with the representatives of donor Governments took place on 31 May 2001 at the Palais des Nations. On that occasion, the Chairman of the Board thanked the regular donors to the Fund, numbering about 40. He expressed concern at the constant rise in requests for financing due to the ever-increasing demand for assistance from victims of torture. He therefore recommended that the regular donors should encourage other Governments belonging to their geographical groups to help the Fund by making an initial contribution.

2. The High Commissioner's reminder to States

16. The Board recommended that the High Commissioner should maintain her practice of sending a letter to States each September, to remind them to contribute regularly to the Fund prior to 1 March 2002. In her letter to the Chairman of the Fund, dated 15 June 2001, the High Commissioner agreed with that suggestion.

3. Presentation of the Board's financial needs before the Commission on Human Rights

17. The Board expressed its appreciation for the practice of the Commission on Human Rights of inviting a member of the Board to present the Fund's financial situation and financing needs, and to make an appeal for contributions during the session of the Commission in connection with the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Fund. The Board suggested that if possible, the General Assembly might do likewise.

4. Relations with the major donors in the area of assistance to victims of torture

18. The Board encourages regular visits and informal exchanges of information between the secretariat of the Fund and the major donors in the area of assistance to victims of torture, in particular, the European Commission. If possible, the secretariat of the Fund and the secretariat of the relevant directorate-general of the European Commission should meet in autumn 2001 in order to evaluate funding needs in the area of assistance to torture victims for the year 2002.

5. Dissemination of information about the Fund

19. The Board continued to encourage initiatives designed to procure further voluntary contributions and recommended that the secretariat should consider new fund-raising activities, in particular, through the production of written or audio-visual information materials on the Fund as recommended by the General Assembly (resolution 55/89 of 4 December 2000, para. 25).

E. Cooperation with other United Nations bodies dealing with the question of torture

20. On 18 May 2001, the first day of the session, the members of the Board met with the Chairman of the Committee against Torture to discuss the text of the joint declaration to be issued on 26 June 2001, the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (see section G below and Annex II).

21. The Board recommended that the Office of the High Commissioner should plan and hold its next session in May 2002 in order to permit a joint meeting to take place at which the Board, the Committee against Torture, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of torture and the High Commissioner could exchange information on activities related to the question of torture and consider new joint action.

F. Cooperation with other United Nations system organizations

22. Throughout the intersessional period (May 2000-May 2001), the secretariat of the Fund continued to cooperate with the field presences of the Office of the High Commissioner and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in respect of conveying information from or to those responsible for projects financed by the Fund, evaluating projects in the field, or monitoring the use of grants allocated. The Board recommended that the High Commissioner, acting in her capacity as coordinator of human rights activities in the United Nations system, should, where necessary, request the cooperation of the directors of the field presences of the Office of the High Commissioner, the United Nations Resident Coordinators or those responsible for any other United Nations organization, fund or programme. Such cooperation would be especially useful for the payment of grants or the evaluation of projects financed by the Fund.

G. 26 June 2001, the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

1. Adoption of the joint declaration

23. It may be recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 52/149 of 12 December 1997, proclaimed 26 June as the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. In accordance with an initiative taken by the Board in May 1998, in order to commemorate the Day, the Board of the Fund, the Committee against Torture, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of torture and the High Commissioner for Human Rights have adopted a

joint declaration addressed to the States and organizations concerned (see Annex II for the text adopted in June 2001).

2. Dissemination of the joint declaration

24. The Board recommended that the Secretary-General should disseminate the joint declaration as widely as possible, particularly to United Nations documentation centres and Resident Coordinators, sufficiently in advance so that it could be translated into national languages, read and distributed on 26 June 2001.

H. Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

25. The Board supports any initiative to ensure the widest possible distribution of the "Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment" (hereinafter referred to as "the Manual") among the relevant professional organizations (particularly for health professionals and police, customs and judicial officers) and its translation into local languages. The Board recommended that all organizations funded by the Fund should receive a copy of the Manual, which is to be published in the Professional Training Series of the Office of the High Commissioner.

I. Secretariat of the Fund and the Board

26. The Board supports the request, put forward by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights in their most recent resolutions on the question of torture (resolutions 55/89 and 2001/62, respectively), "to ensure the provision of adequate staff and facilities for the bodies and mechanisms involved in combating torture and assisting victims of torture". Thus, the Board recommends that the secretariat of the Fund be adequately staffed and have at its disposal the supplies, equipment and services it requires to function properly. Such expenditures have no financial implications for the Office of the High Commissioner because they are charged to the programme support costs of the Fund, in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations of the United Nations. These needs are justified by the ever-increasing number of grant requests to be screened, grants approved and reports on the use of grants to be examined each year.

III. Preparations for the twenty-first session of the Board

A. Estimated needs for 2002

27. The total amount of assistance requested in 2001 ($11 million) was $1 million higher than in 2000. As shown in the following table, total grant requests have increased by at least $1 million per year over the past few years. Consequently, it can realistically be estimated that in 2002, requests for grants from the Fund will amount to $12 million.

Table 2
Comparison between amounts requested and grants awarded (1993-2001)

Year	*Requested (United States dollars)*	*Awarded (United States dollars)*	*Percentage awarded*	*Difference (United States dollars)*
2001	11 119 341 (+1 119 341)	8 009 842 (+1 009 842)	72	3 109 499
2000	10 000 000 (+1 748 140)	7 000 000 (+1 921 500)	70	3 000 000
1999	8 251 860 (+1 451 860)	5 078 500 (+868 500)	61	3 173 360
1998	6 800 000	4 210 000 (+1 173 946)	62	2 590 000
1997	6 800 000 (+1 181 355)	3 036 054 (+500 554)	45	3 763 946
1996	5 618 645	2 535 500	45	3 083 145
1995	5 827 645	2 719 680	47	3 107 965
1994	5 476 959	3 698 080 (+1 587 000)	67	1 778 879
1993	5 289 413	2 111 880	40	3 177 533

B. Contributions to the Fund

28. In the light of the foregoing, donors are encouraged to make their contributions to the Fund before 1 March 2002, as recommended in the most recent resolutions of the General Assembly (55/89 of 4 December 2000) and the Commission on Human Rights (2001/62 of 25 April 2001). Contributions to the Fund should be paid in advance in order to be duly recorded by the Treasurer of the United Nations. It is the Board's practice in recommending new grants to take into account at the first meeting of its annual session only contributions that have actually been paid and for which an official receipt has been issued. Payments not recorded before the first day of the Board's session are counted in the following year. Thus, the Algerian contribution of $5,000, recorded in New York on 21 June 2001, will be counted in the twenty-first session.

29. Most donors pay their voluntary contributions directly to the Fund, without pledging in advance. In fact, the Board does not take pledges into account. However, some governmental pledges were made to the Office of the High Commissioner or were recorded during the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, which is held in New York each year during the first week of November. Following is a list of outstanding pledges.

Table 3
Pledges outstanding as at 30 June 2001

Donors	*United States dollars*	*Local currency*	*Pledge date*	*Year*
Brazil	10 000		20 December 1994	1995
"	10 000		2 November 1995	1996
"	10 000		4 November 1997	1998
Cameroon*		CFAF 5 340	11 June 2001	2001
Chile	10 000		2 November 2000	2001
Italy	110 519	euros 120 000	5 July 2000	2001
Tunisia	1 393		2 November 2000	2001
Turkey	5 000		2 November 2000	2001
United Kingdom**	216 666	£130 000	2 February 1999	1999

* A cheque payable to the Treasurer of the United Nations was sent to the Office of the High Commissioner on 11 June 2001. The official Treasury receipt showing that the sum was available to the Fund had not been received as of the date of the report.

** The payment of £130,000 was deposited to the account of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). The Office of the High Commissioner has submitted a request for the sum to be transferred to the Fund. The transfer had not been confirmed as of the date of this report.

C. How to make a contribution to the Fund

30. Contributions to the Fund should be marked as follows: "*payee: United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, account CH*". Payments may be made: (a) by bank transfer to "United Nations Geneva General Fund" either in United States dollars to account 240-C-590-160.1, or in other currencies to account 240-C-590-160.0, c/o UBS AG, case postale 2770, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland, Swift address UBSWCHZH12A; (b) or by cheque payable to "United Nations" addressed to: Trésorerie, Nations Unies, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

31. Donors are requested to inform the secretariat of the Fund when a payment has been made (a copy of the bank transfer order or of the cheque would be appreciated) so as to facilitate record-keeping, preparation of an official letter of thanks and preparation of the Secretary-General's reports.

D. Dates of the twenty-first session

32. The Board recommended that its next session should be held from 13 to 27 May 2002, to coincide with the session of the Committee against Torture. The Board appreciated that at the meeting held on 1 June 2001, the High Commissioner had highlighted the Fund's activities, and it recommended that a meeting should be held again with the High Commissioner during the twenty-first session.

Annex I

List of organizations financed by the Fund in 2001[a]

Organization	*Place*
Abuelas de la Plaza de Mayo	Argentina
ACAT-Brazil	Brazil
ACAT-Mexico (Action of Christians for the Abolition of Torture)	Mexico
Advocates for Survivors of Trauma and Torture	United States
Africa War Victims Medical Concern	Uganda
African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims	Uganda
Amigos de los Sobrevivientes	United States
Appartenances	Switzerland
Armenian Medical Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre	Armenia
Asian Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Network	India
Association pour la prévention de la torture	Switzerland/Chile
Association pour les victimes de la répression en exil	France
Associazione Centro Astalli	Italy
Balay Inco, Rehabilitation Centre	Philippines
Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma Victims	Bangladesh
BASMA	France
Bellevue Association	United States
Boston Medical Center	United States
Calgary Catholic Immigration Society	Canada
Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defence of Human Rights	Cambodia
Campaign for Good Governance	United Republic of Tanzania
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture	Canada
CAPSDH-Ghana	Ghana
Caritas-Cologne	Germany

Organization	*Place*
Casa dei diritti sociali-FOCUS	Italy
Center for Justice and Accountability	United States
Center for Multicultural Human Services	United States
Center for Victims of Torture	United States
Centre Care for Torture and Trauma Victims	Nigeria
Centre for Care of Victims of Torture	India
Centre for Education and Defence of Human Rights	United Republic of Tanzania
Centre for Legal and Social Studies	Argentina
Centre for Rehabilitation War and Torture	Sweden
Centre for the Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors	Bangladesh
Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation	South Africa
Centre for the Treatment of Torture Victims	Germany
Centre for the Treatment of Torture Victims — Ulm	Germany
Centre for Torture Victims	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Centre for Victims of Political Persecutions	Poland
Centre médico-psychosocial pour réfugiés et victims de la torture	Belgium
Centre Primo Levi	France
Centro Alternativas	Chile
Centro de Alternativas en Salud Mental	Paraguay
Centro de Estudios Fronterizos y de Promoción de los Derechos Humanos	Mexico
Centro de Salud Mental y Derechos Humanos	Chile
Centro por la Justicia y el Derecho Internacional	United States
Coalition des centres pour les victimes de la torture en Europe latine	France
Coalition of Survivors of Torture	United States
Comisión de Derechos Humanos	Peru
Comisión de Derechos Humanos de El Salvador	El Salvador

Organization	*Place*
Comité médical pour les exilés	France
Comité para la Defensa de la Salud, la Ética Profesional y los Derechos Humanos	Argentina
Concerned Christian Community	Liberia
Consulting Centre for Constitutional Rights and Justice	Nigeria
Coordinadora Nacional	Peru
Cordelia Foundation for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Organized Violence	Hungary
Corporación de Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos del Pueblo	Chile
Croix-Rouge suisse	Switzerland
Doctors of the World	United States
Edmonton Centre for Survivors of Torture and Trauma	Canada
Equipo Argentino de Trabajo y Investigación Psicosocial	Argentina
Estonian Centre of Medical Rehabilitation for Victims of Torture	Estonia
Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearances	Philippines
Family Rehabilitation Centre	Sri Lanka
Fédération internationale des droits de l'homme	France
Fondation Idole	Cameroon
Forum des activistes contre la torture	Rwanda
Fund Against Violation of Law	Armenia
Fundació Concepció Juvanteny	Spain
Fundación de Ayuda Social de las Iglesias Cristianas	Chile
Fundación Ecuménica para el Desarrollo y la Paz	Peru
Fundación Social Colombiana	Colombia
Gaza Community Mental Health Programme	Gaza
Gender Equity Unit	South Africa
Geneva Initiative on Psychiatry	Netherlands
Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA	United States

Organization	*Place*
Gulf Coast Community Care	United States
Health Care Centre	Austria
HEMAYAT	Austria
HMD Response	United Kingdom
Home for Human Rights	Sri Lanka
Human Rights Foundation of Turkey	Turkey
Human Rights Initiative of North Texas	United States
Human Rights Society, Nizhny Novgorod	Russian Federation
ICAR Foundation (Medical Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture)	Romania
Independent Medico-Legal Unit	Kenya
Instituto de Terapia e Investigación de la Secuelas de la Tortura y de la Violencia Estatal	Bolivia
International Institute of Boston	United States
International Institute of New Jersey	United States
International Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims	Denmark
International Society for Health and Human Rights	Norway
Italian Refugee Council	Italy
Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights	United Kingdom
KANYARWANDA	Rwanda
Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture	Lebanon
Khmer Health Advocates	United States
Khulumani Support Group	South Africa
Kurdish Human Rights Project	United Kingdom
La voix des sans voix	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Lahore Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Survivors	Pakistan
Latvia Medical Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims and their Families	Latvia
Liga Moçambicana dos Direitos Humanos	Mozambique

Organization	*Place*
Ligue togolaise des droits de l'homme	Togo
Macedonian Centre for Mental Health	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Marjorie Kovler Center for the Treatment of Survivors of Torture	United States
Medical Action Group	Philippines
Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture	Uganda
Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture	United Kingdom
Medical Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims	Greece
Medical Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture	Republic of Moldova
Medici contro la tortura	Italy
Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights	United States
Muslim Women's Aid	United Kingdom
Mwatikho Torture Survivors Organization	Kenya
National Institute for Crime Prevention and Reintegration of Offenders	South Africa
National Peace Accord Trust	South Africa
Niger Delta Environment and Relief Foundation	Nigeria
Oeuvres sociales pour le développement	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Organization of Health and Human Rights Promoters	Sierra Leone
Organization of Parents and Family Members of the Disappeared	Sri Lanka
OSIRIS	France
Ottawa — Carlton Immigrant Services Organization	Canada
Penal Reform International	United Kingdom
Physicians for Human Rights	United Kingdom
Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund	United Kingdom
Prisoners Rehabilitation and Welfare Action	Nigeria
Program for Torture Victims	United States
Proyecto Adelante	United States

Organization	*Place*
Public Committee Against Torture in Israel	Israel
Red de Apoyo por la Justicia y de la Paz	Venezuela
Redress Trust	United Kingdom
Refugee, Inc.	United States
Refugio — Bremen	Germany
Refugio — Munich	Germany
Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims	Denmark
Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims	Croatia
Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture	Turkey
Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture in Ethiopia	Ethiopia
Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Totalitarianism	Republic of Moldova
Research and Support Centre for Victims of Maltreatment and Social Exclusion	Greece
Réseau d'intervention auprès des personnes ayant subi la violence organisée	Canada
Réseau Sud pour la défense des droits humains	Haiti
Restart Centre	Lebanon
Rocky Mountain Survivors Center	United States
Romanian Independent Society for Human Rights	Romania
Rwanda Women Community Development Network	Rwanda
Safe Horizon	United States
Santé formation travail	Haiti
Slovenska Filantropija	Slovenia
Social Rehabilitation Service	Uruguay
Society for Social Research Art and Culture	India
Solidarité pour la promotion sociale et la paix	Democratic Republic of the Congo
South African Prisoners' Organization for Human Rights	South Africa
Southern Africa Trauma Centre	South Africa
St. Petersburg Centre	Russian Federation

Organization	*Place*
Struggle for Change (Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture)	Pakistan
Sudanese Victims of Torture Group	United Kingdom
Survivors International — San Francisco	United States
Survivors of Torture, International — San Diego	United States
Swedish Red Cross — Dalarna	Sweden
Swedish Red Cross — Malmö	Sweden
Swedish Red Cross — Stockholm	Sweden
Swedish Red Cross — Uppsala	Sweden
The Trauma Centre	South Africa
Tortura Nunca Mas	Brazil
Trauma Centre in Yaoundé	Cameroon
Treatment and Rehabilitation Unit for Survivors of Torture and Trauma	Australia
Treatment Rehabilitation Centre	Ramallah
Unité de médecine des voyages et des migrations	Switzerland
Vancouver Association for Survivors of Torture	Canada
Vasavya Mahila Mandali	India
VIVRE	Senegal
Voice Against Torture	Pakistan
Women's Aid Collective	Nigeria
World Organization against Torture	Switzerland
XENION	Germany
Yosua Prison Ministry	Indonesia
Zentrum zur sozialmedizinischen, rechtlichen und kulturellen Betreuung von Ausländern in Österreich	Austria

[a] The Fund also financed two other humanitarian organizations providing medical, psychological, social or legal assistance or training for professionals working with torture victims.

Annex II

Joint Declaration for the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, 26 June 2001

The Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture ("the Fund"), the Committee against Torture, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of torture and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Recalling the decision of the General Assembly in its resolution 52/149 of 12 December 1997, to declare 26 June the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture,

Recalling also that the General Assembly, recognizing the need to provide assistance to the victims of torture in a purely humanitarian spirit, established the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture to receive voluntary contributions for distribution to victims of torture and their relatives and appealed to all Governments to contribute to the Fund,

Observing that the requests to the Fund for remedy and assistance to victims of torture and their families are ever increasing,

Regretting that torture, an international crime, is still practised by Governments and by other entities exercising effective power,

Reaffirming with dismay that, as affirmed by the Secretary-General, torture is one of the vilest acts to be perpetrated by human beings upon each other,

Exhorting all Governments to eradicate torture and bring to justice torturers everywhere and reminding everyone that ending torture marks a beginning of true respect for the most basic of all human rights: the intrinsic dignity and value of each individual,

Conscious of the need to emphasize the prevention of torture, as recommended by the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993,

Recognizing that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance create conditions conducive to torture and have been used to justify torture throughout history,

Noting that the World Conference scheduled to convene in Durban, South Africa, in September 2001 will examine racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Stressing that article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment includes under the definition of torture any act by which severe pain or suffering is inflicted for any reason based on discrimination of any kind,

Recalling that the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture has noted that ethnic difference may contribute to the process of dehumanization of the victim, which is often a necessary condition for torture and ill-treatment to take place,

Emphasizing that the Committee against Torture has observed, with regret, that discrimination of any kind can create a climate in which torture or ill-treatment of

"other" groups can more easily be accepted and that discrimination undercuts the realization of equality of all persons before the law,

Acknowledging and commending the valuable and ongoing work of many Governments, associations, non-governmental groups and individuals in combating all forms of torture,

Paying tribute to those, particularly in non-governmental organizations, who work selflessly to relieve the suffering and assist the recovery of torture victims worldwide, and seek redress for them,

1. *Strongly appeal* on 26 June 2001, on the occasion of the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture:

(a) To all Governments and other entities exercising effective power:

(i) To call an immediate halt to the practice of torture;

(ii) To sanction as soon as possible all persons who have ordered, acquiesced in or practised torture;

(iii) To take all appropriate measures necessary for the prevention of torture within the territory under their jurisdiction or control;

(b) To all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals:

(i) To provide as much support as possible to the victims of torture and their families;

(ii) To cooperate, in order to prevent torture, for the establishment of an international mechanism of visits to places of detention by adopting as soon as possible an optional protocol to the Convention against Torture;

2. *Assure* all donors to the Fund:

(i) That their contributions are duly and equitably distributed to organizations in the five continents and effectively utilized to provide medical, psychological, social, economic, legal, humanitarian and other forms of assistance to the victims of torture and their families;

(ii) That their contributions are highly appreciated not only by the victims of torture and their families themselves but also by human rights defenders and organizations;

3. *Strongly appeal* to all donors to the Fund to continue and, if possible, increase their generous contributions to the Fund, preferably on an annual basis;

4. *Urge* the universal ratification, by the year 2005, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocols and of the Convention against Torture, including acceptance of the procedures provided for in articles 21 and 22;

5. *Appeal* to all States to keep constantly in mind that the eradication of torture requires not only ratification of the above treaties, but also their effective implementation;

6. *Encourage* renewed educational efforts to prevent torture, including those addressing eradication of torture based upon discrimination of any kind;

7. *Call upon* all Governments and individuals to assess the way in which courts, ombudspersons, national human rights commissions or related bodies address the element of discrimination when examining allegations of torture or ill-treatment, in order to improve the effectiveness of these mechanisms in enabling individuals to raise concerns about any such allegations based on discrimination or unequal access to justice;

8. *Recall* that an essential element in eradicating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance is overcoming impunity and bringing to justice those responsible for acts of torture or ill-treatment, whether committed against a single individual or segments of the population;

9. *Urge* all States to provide in their domestic law for fair and adequate reparation, including compensation and rehabilitation of the victims of torture;

10. *Urge* all participants at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in Durban to work together against torture, paying due attention to the relationship between discrimination and the practice of torture, and the need to eradicate any such practice as a vital part of the effort to provide remedies to the victims of torture;

11. *Call upon* the United Nations Secretariat to transmit this Joint Declaration to all Governments and give it the widest possible distribution;

12. *Appeal* to the communications media:

(a) To give as wide publicity as possible to this Joint Declaration on 26 June 2001;

(b) To enlighten both Governments and peoples about the current situation concerning torture by reporting consistently on that subject.